RURAL PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY DEVELOPMENT

South Georgia Medical Education and Research Consortium,
Sponsoring Institution
Colquitt Regional Medical Center, Participating Site
Georgia South Graduate Medical Education

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Overview

- South Georgia Medical Education and Research Consortium (Consortium) is a non profit organization focused on improving health care access by enhancing the medical education pipeline
- Founded in 2011, the Consortium was accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) as an Institutional Sponsor. The Consortium Sponsors Colquitt Regional Medical Center's Family Medicine and Psychiatry program.
- The Consortium also works with regional hospitals, including South Georgia Medical Center (SGMC) and Archbold in residency development.
- July 2022, the Region anticipates 5 programs with residents in training
 - Colquitt Regional Medical Center
 - Georgia South Family Medicine and Psychiatry
 - Phoebe Putney Family Medicine
 - South Georgia Medical Center Internal Medicine
 - Archbold Internal Medicine

Psychiatry Residency Program

- Development started in 2018
 - Needs Assessment of Mental and Behavioral Health
 - Market Share and Access to Psychiatric Services
- Federal Grant offered by the Health Services and Resources Administration for Rural Residency Development in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Psychiatry. Colquitt Regional applied for Psychiatry.
- Award of \$750,000 over 3 years to start the rural psychiatry program.
- Residency
 - Four Year Program
 - 3 residents per year, total of 12
 - Colquitt Regional Medical Center will partner with Turning Point and regional providers to train residents in various specialty areas of psychiatry.

Residency Goals and Objectives

- Sixty percent of residents stay within 100 miles of where they complete their programs.
- Rural Training for Psychiatry will offer experiences in forensics, addiction, substance abuse, outpatient clinics, geriatric psychiatry, child and adolescent and inpatient all focused on community-based, rural settings.
- Expose residents to rural and underserved behavioral and mental health needs and resources, preparing for practice.
- Regional faculty from Valdosta, Tifton, Thomasville and Moultrie
 - Interest in expanding program to include other area hospitals.
- Regional Rotations
 - Turning Point (primary participating site)
 - Additional sites in Moultrie, Valdosta, and Thomasville

Psychiatry Residency Success

- Program Accreditation expected February 2022
- Recruited 6 Board Certified Faculty to program
- Program presented to the HRSA Rural Residency Planning and Development quarterly meeting on December of 2020 on the topic of "Site Visit Prep for Developing Programs"
- Program Spotlight in National Rural GME Newsletter for Program Development.
- Program Coordinator, Kristoff Cohran, recognized during the AADPRT conference in March of 2021 as an outstanding mentee in their "AADPRT Mentorship Program"
- Program Coordinator, Kristoff Cohran presented at the National Rural Health Association Meeting in May 2021
- Program presented and facilitated conference break out sessions during the Rural Residency Program Development Annual Meeting August 2021
- Program Director, Dr. Rudolph-Watson and Program Coordinator, Kristoff Cohran presented at the Statewide Rural Prosperity on the topic of Mental Health July 2021
- Program Coordinator, Kristoff Cohran recognized in Georgia Trend 40 Under 40 for work with Mental Health

Challenges and Barriers

- Start-up Recruitment and Sustainability of Faculty
 - Recruitment Cost to onboard faculty
 - Faculty Board Certification Requirements
 - Training and Ongoing Faculty Development
- Resident Recruitment
- Establishing New Rotation Sites
 - Colquitt Regional new geriatric-psychiatry unit (10 beds)
 - New Intensive Outpatient Program for Geriatrics (55 and up)
 - New Outpatient Clinic
 - 1 psychiatrist, 2 LCSW
 - Turning Point-Primary Site, Moultrie
 - Georgia Pines, Thomasville
 - Vandemark Psychiatry and Counseling, Valdosta
 - Colquitt County Jail, Moultrie
 - Valdosta Psychiatry Association
- Expanding the residency to include additional site to meet the need of the region
 - Archbold Hospital (Thomasville) and South Georgia Medical Center (Valdosta)Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital (Albany)

Need and Purpose

- Only Rural Psychiatry Program in the Southeast United States
 - Only 5 other Psychiatry Programs in Georgia (Atlanta-2, Augusta, Savannah and Macon)
- Impact to Healthcare Workforce Recruitment in the State (not just regionally) of psychiatrists trained in *rural* mental health
 - First Class Graduates 2026
- Access to providers will:
 - Impact Health Indicators
 - 2.3 million in Georgia with mental illness, focus on rural and underserved communities
 - Georgia ranks in top 11 States with the most prescription opioid deaths-Key partnership with Turning Point, offer addiction rotations and training
 - 17% youth (under 18) with suicidal thoughts, 7% attempted suicide- child and adolescent track built over time to address issues
 - Impact to Health Care Access
 - 95 Counties in the State with no Psychiatrist, Georgia Board for Physician Workforce May 2019
 - Georgia Ranks 47 of 50 state for access to mental health care (Mental Health America of Georgia)
 - Impact to our Community
 - 20% chance for someone with a mental illness to end up in prison instead of a hospital

Return on Investment

- Improved access to care means better outpatient treatment. Better outpatient treatment means:
 - Reduced hospitalization
 - Reduced rates of homelessness, unemployment
 - Reduced Chronic Health Issues
 - Reduced crime
 - Reduced drug abuse and overdose
- With Federal and State Investment, the program will break even at capacity.
- Additional psychiatrist in training will further expand access, providing support in emergency rooms, hospitals and outpatient clinics.
- For every recruit, economic impact of \$1.5 million, and multiplier effective of savings to community